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**Social and human rights questions: Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues**

Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its third session

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance
with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and
Social Council**

I. Introduction

1. In the report on its third session,¹ the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended five draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. It also identified proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action and recommended, through the Council, that Member States, the United Nations system and others assist in their realization.
2. In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretariat presented estimates of programme budget implications to the Permanent Forum on a number of its draft decisions. At that time, the Permanent Forum was informed that due to time constraints the estimates were preliminary and that the Secretariat would review the estimates and proposals and bring the outcome of the review to the Council's attention when it considered the report of the Permanent Forum.
3. The statements of programme budget implications hereunder reflect the outcome of the review done by the Secretariat and are submitted for the consideration of the Council.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43).*



II. Draft decision I, "Intersessional meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues", and draft decision II, "Workshop on free, prior and informed consent"

4. Under the terms of draft decisions I and II, the Economic and Social Council would:

(a) Decide to authorize, on an exceptional basis, a three-day intersessional meeting of the Permanent Forum in 2005 to prepare for the fourth annual session of the Forum in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues;

(b) Decide to authorize a technical three-day workshop on free, prior and informed consent, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations system and other interested intergovernmental organizations, experts from indigenous organizations, interested States and three members of the Permanent Forum, and would request the workshop to report to the fourth session of the Permanent Forum under the special theme of the session.

III. Activities by which the proposed decisions would be carried out

5. Should the Council adopt the draft decisions I and II, the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, would be modified as follows: (a) inclusion of "a three-day intersessional meeting of the Permanent Forum in 2005" under paragraph 9.81 (a) v.a.; and (b) inclusion of "a workshop on free, prior and informed consent" under paragraph 9.81 (c) of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The adoption of the draft decisions by the Council would also mean an addition to the approved calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2004-2005.

6. The decision to hold a three-day intersessional meeting and a technical three-day workshop would entail the provision of six meetings (two meetings per day) each, with full interpretation services. There would be requirements for 10 pages of pre-session documentation in five languages (Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) for the intersessional meeting while the technical workshop would require 45 pages of pre-session documentation in four languages (English, French, Russian and Spanish) and 8,500 pages of post-session documentation in all six languages.

IV. Additional requirements for the biennium 2004-2005

7. Should the Council adopt draft decisions I and II, the related requirements for travel, daily subsistence allowance, terminal expenses and conference servicing for the intersessional meeting and the workshop, at full cost, are described in the table below:

Additional requirements

(United States dollars)

	<i>Intersessional meeting</i>	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 9. Economic and social affairs			
Travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses of members	102 500	26 400	128 900
Section 2. General Assembly affairs and conference services			
Meeting servicing, interpretation and documentation	51 200	89 400	140 600
Section 29D. Office of Central Support Services			
Support services	14 700	14 700	29 400
Total	168 400	130 500	298 900

8. In the oral statement made to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the time of its adoption of draft decisions I and II, the Forum was informed that the decisions would give rise to travel, daily subsistence and terminal costs of \$102,500 and \$26,400 respectively. The Forum was further informed that the projected travel requirements for the intersessional meeting were proposed to be partially met from \$25,700 in savings from the provisions for the third session of the Forum, thus resulting in net additional requirements of \$76,800. As reported to the Forum at its third session, the projected requirements of \$26,400 for the workshop are proposed to be met from the Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

9. For the servicing of the three-day intersessional meeting and the three-day technical workshop, additional resources would be required under sections 2 (\$140,600) and 29D (\$29,400) of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

V. Contingency fund

10. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditure were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VI. Conclusion

11. Should the Council adopt draft decisions I and II contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its third session, additional resources totalling \$246,800 would be required under section 9, Economic and

social affairs (\$76,800), section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services (\$140,600), and section 29D, Office of Central Support Services (\$29,400), of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an increase in appropriations for the biennium 2004-2005.
